

All the classes from the Fourth to the Sixth Form need not be opened at once. It would be enough, if Form IV alone was sanctioned for the present. In sanctioning one additional class, no additional expenditure would be necessary. There would be at least 25 to 30 students in the IV Form and their fees would come to Rs. 75 per mensem. No additional accommodation was necessary, as the new class could be held in the room now used by the Head Master, his office being transferred to one of the unused tiffin sheds. The present Head Master who was a B. A. & L. T. could very well teach the Fourth Form. An additional teacher, if found necessary, might be appointed for one of the Lower Forms on a pay of Rs. 25 per mensem. The surplus amount might be utilised in buying chemical appliances. If higher Forms were sanctioned, the people were ready to provide additional accommodation at their own expense. Granting that any additional expenditure was necessary for the Fourth Form itself, the people were ready to defray the same at once. Under the circumstances, the Member prayed that the Government might be pleased to sanction the opening of at least the Fourth Form in the local English School.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

132. Opening of a Lower Grade Secondary School at Nedumangad.

Mr. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Nedumangad taluk) said that the taluk was admittedly backward in point of education, especially English education, and added that the people were not sufficiently well-to-do to send their children to other places for education. There was no need for the fear that there would not be enough boys, if a school was opened. There were more than 300 students in the 5th, 6th and 7th classes in the three Higher Grade Elementary schools in the taluk. The necessity for an English school was badly felt by the people. The subject was brought up at the sixth and eighth sessions of the Assembly and a representation on the subject was made to the Dewan during his visit to the taluk. The Member prayed that a Lower Grade Secondary school might be established in the Nedumangad taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

133. Suggestions for improving the present condition of education in the Kottarakara taluk.

Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai (Member, Kottarakara taluk) said that people were backward in education in the taluk and that the number of schools in the taluk was inadequate when compared with its extent and population. There was only one L. G. S. School for English education and the number of Elementary schools was but 37, of which 13 were departmental and 24 aided. For Elementary education there was only one school for 6 square miles. The only L. G. S. School in the taluk was started 45 years ago. There were several representations in the Assembly by the Members from the taluk for raising the standard of the school to a High School. The proposed High School would benefit not only the Kottarakara taluk but also the neighbouring taluks of Kunnattur and Pathanapuram. The people had promised, more than 4 years ago, to construct, at their own cost, the additional buildings that might be required. There would be sufficient number of students also. Some years ago, there was a net saving from the school to the extent of about Rs. 200. Even now the income and expenditure were almost equal. The Member, therefore, prayed that the standard of the school might be raised up to the Sixth Form and that the Fourth Form might be opened from the beginning of the next school-year. He then presented a memorial signed by a large number of inhabitants of the taluk containing the same prayer.

The school-going population in the taluk calculated at 15% was about 14,000, of which more than 8,000 remained uneducated. That was due to the want of a sufficient number of schools. The Government were sparing in giving grants to aided schools. To provide schools for all children, 80 additional schools, each with a strength of 100, had to be newly opened. The people were not in a position to conduct grant-in-aid schools. There was paucity in the number of qualified teachers in the taluk. Qualified men from other taluks were not likely to accept places on Rs. 6 per mensem. Of the 24 grant-in-aid schools in the taluk, 20 were conducted

by Mission agencies, leaving 4 which were managed by other individuals. Individual management was likely to end in failure. In the Tiruvalla taluk there were, in 1090, 154 Elementary schools, of which 47 were departmental schools. Moreover, 14 of the above schools were of the higher grade. In taluks which were backward in education such as Kottarakara, it was necessary that the Government should slightly change their general policy as regards Elementary education and increase the number of departmental schools, both higher and lower grades.

There was only one higher grade school for girls in the taluk. There were two other schools for girls, of which one alone was departmental. The strength of all the above schools came to about 200. The one aided school was likely to stop work. The complaint that qualified female teachers were not available would cease, only if the number of schools for girls were increased in the interior parts of the country where girls from all communities could get admission. The Member requested that the subject of female education in the taluk might also receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

134. Opening of an Agricultural School at Karunagapalli.

Mr. E. Kesava Pillai (Member, Karunagappalli taluk) said that, though the Agricultural Department was doing useful work in the country, the bulk of the people were ignorant of the scientific methods of agriculture. The people were also unwilling to follow the new methods, giving up their old methods; and the department did not always succeed in removing from the minds of the ryots the doubts as to the utility or benefit of improved methods of cultivation. With a view to impart to the ryots a knowledge of scientific cultivation, it was necessary to open agricultural schools all over the State.

The Director of Agriculture had already made certain proposals to the Government on the subject. They were, firstly, that agriculture should be taught as one of the subjects in the Elementary schools situated in agricultural centres, and secondly, that agricultural schools should be opened in every taluk or at least one school for a group of two or three taluks. It was necessary that there should be trained men to teach agricultural subjects in the above schools. The above proposals presupposed the existence of a principal Agricultural Institution in an important centre where persons might get the necessary training to fit them as teachers in the Elementary schools. The Director's proposals had not been sanctioned by the Government. Whatever might be the reasons for not doing so, the fact could not be denied that the bulk of the ryots were ignorant on matters relating to agriculture. The population was increasing and the area available for cultivation was decreasing day by day. It was the duty of the Government, therefore, to encourage agriculturists as far as possible. The taluk of Karunagappalli was an agricultural centre. It was desirable to open an Agricultural school at Ochira. The people were ready to render whatever assistance lay in their power. The proposed school would benefit the adjoining taluks also. There could be no doubt that Ochira was best suited for the purpose. An annual Agricultural Exhibition was held there. It had a Government Farm. The Member, therefore, prayed that an Agricultural school be started at Ochira.

Regarding admission to agricultural schools, the Member said that only those who had an aptitude for agriculture should be admitted and that no examination qualification need be insisted on for admission.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

135. Raising the standard of the Lower Grade Secondary School for Girls at Chengannur.

Mr. K. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Chengannur taluk) said that the necessity for raising the standard of the L. G. School for girls at Chengannur was very great. The girls who passed the Third Form had either to go to Trivandrum or join the local Higher Grade school for boys to continue their studies. For obvious reasons, both the above courses were not desirable and the result was that many girls had to discontinue their studies. There were at present 25 students in Form III. The place was a healthy one and was growing in importance. If a Higher Grade school was opened there, it would serve the